

State senate in 1994, where he represented Blaine, Camas, Gooding, and Lincoln Counties. For a decade, he also served as former Democratic minority leader for the Idaho State Senate.

Clint always kept his mind and heart open as he worked hard for Idahoans. Clint was a principled, considerate and devoted leader. With an unequalled dedication, he had a love for natural resources, agricultural efforts and the beauty of the State. Clint was a successful, hard-working and fair businessman. He loved his family very much, and he will be remembered as a loving husband and brother.

My condolences and heart-felt prayers go out to his wife Michelle, his extended family, friends and loved ones. Clint Stennett will be greatly missed, and his immense contribution to the State of Idaho will not be forgotten.●

REMEMBERING JOHN W. KLUGE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to John Kluge, a very close friend of mine who passed away on September 7, 2010, at the age of 95. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt condolences to his wife Maria; his children John and Samantha; and his stepchildren Joseph, Diane, Jeannette, and Peter. For all of us who had the privilege of getting to know him, this is a tremendous loss.

It is no exaggeration to say that John led a truly remarkable life. Having made a substantial fortune from a communications empire that included everything from television and radio stations to mobile phones and the Harlem Globetrotters, John regularly graced *Forbes* magazine's annual list of the 400 wealthiest Americans.

But John was not born with the proverbial "silver spoon" in his mouth. He didn't inherit his wealth. John Kluge built his company, Metromedia, on his own, through nothing more than hard work, spot-on business instincts and, as John himself often freely admitted, a little bit of good luck.

Indeed, John's life reads like a pitch-perfect version of a classic American success story—a potent reminder of what individuals can accomplish with dedication, tenacity, and a healthy dose of self-confidence and optimism.

Born in Chemnitz, Germany, in 1914, John moved with his family to Detroit in 1922 and took his first job as a payroll clerk for his stepfather's business when he was just 10. From a very early age, John was driven to make the most of the educational opportunities available to him. During his teenage years, when his stepfather asked him to drop out of school so he could work full time at the family business, John instead opted to leave home and live with his typing teacher so he could continue his education.

That decision ultimately paid off. During his high school years, John worked extremely hard to get good grades and eventually won a scholar-

ship to college, later graduating from Columbia University with a degree in economics.

In the 1950s, following a brief stint working for a Michigan paper company and several years of service in the U.S. Army during World War II, John started purchasing radio stations throughout the country. By the time he founded Metromedia, the country's first major independent broadcasting company, in 1961, he had already made a small fortune from his radio stations and a regional food distribution business he founded in Baltimore. When he sold Metromedia two decades later, John increased his net worth even more substantially, making nearly \$4.7 billion in the process.

Clearly, it would have been incredibly easy for John to have simply taken his money "... and joined the country club and gotten into this pattern of complaining about the world and about the tax law," as he once put it in an interview for the *New York Times*. But John Kluge never had any desire to spend the rest of his life sitting around and frittering away his wealth. He placed a tremendous amount of value on a hard, honest day's work. And it was the sense of fulfillment he derived from his own work that ultimately served as the driving force behind his numerous accomplishments.

Indeed, John Kluge was the consummate workhorse. More inclined to avoid the trappings of fame and recognition than many contemporary corporate executives, John never retained a public relations staff. He was content to work behind the scenes, building his telecommunications empire and cementing his position as one of America's most gifted business strategists with little fanfare.

But John was much more than a talented entrepreneur who rose from humble beginnings to strike it rich. In large part, I believe, because he was not born into a life of privilege, John was absolutely committed to putting his largesse to work for others. He was a prolific philanthropist, and among the many worthy causes and organizations that benefitted from his generosity over the years, the presence of John's contributions can probably be most clearly felt at his alma mater, Columbia.

Throughout his life, John donated substantial sums of money to Columbia, primarily to fund scholarships for underprivileged and minority students. But in 2007, John surprised everyone when he pledged that, upon his death, the university would receive a gift of \$400 million from his estate. To provide a sense of scale here, that single gift is the largest Columbia has ever received, and by far the largest ever given to an institution of higher learning specifically to help students afford tuition.

And that is exactly the way I think John would have wanted to be remembered as an individual who used his good fortune to make sure others

would be able to benefit from the same opportunities he had growing up. As someone who worked to ensure that bright, hard working students from low-income families who were accepted to one of the country's most prestigious universities would be able to make the most of their college educations. As someone who gave back to the people and institutions that helped make his meteoric rise in the corporate world possible.

For my part, I will certainly remember John Kluge for his uncanny business acumen and singular dedication to philanthropy. But at the end of the day, I will also recall John as a wonderful, dear friend who was always a pleasure to be around.

You see, in spite of everything, John never let his wealth or position in life get to his head. During the time that I knew him, John was always an extremely kind, good-natured, and genuinely fun person. He was always accessible and easy to talk to, and I will miss his company immensely.

And so it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to say goodbye to such a special individual. Once again, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to his loving family and to all those individuals who, like me, were so lucky to have John in their lives.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RICHARD ROOT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I recognize the accomplishments of Colonel Richard Root, of the U.S. Army, who was recently promoted from the rank of lieutenant colonel. Until his recent transfer to the highly competitive Senior Service College, Colonel Root worked for more than 3 years in the Army's Legislative Affairs Office as a Senate liaison officer. I had the pleasure of working with Colonel Root frequently during that time, and was therefore proud to be able to join my colleague and good friend Senator CORKER in hosting his promotion ceremony in the Capitol. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Colonel Root and his family for this well-deserved recognition.

For more than 21 years, including 3 in combat, Colonel Root has been faithfully serving our Nation as a member of the Armed Forces. Beginning in 1989, when he was commissioned as a field artillery lieutenant, Colonel Root's assignments have taken him around the country and the world, including several deployments during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and, more recently, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his more than two decades in the Army, Colonel Root has been recognized on a number of occasions for his superior service and valor, receiving, among other decorations, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Assault Badge, Army Staff Badge, and Combat Action Badge.